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**REMARKS**

The Office Action of January 18, 2007 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1-20 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1-12 and 20 are amended. Consequently, claims 1-20 remain pending in the instant application.

Claims 1-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al (US 2001/007447). Further, claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (US 2001/007447) in view of Miyawaki et al. (U.S. 6,166,792). These rejections are traversed for the reasons advanced in detail below.

With respect to the independent Claims 12 and 20, the Examiner asserts that Fig. 1 of Tanaka discloses the output terminal of the switching element (TFT 2) electrically connected to the non-volatile memory (nonvolatile 3). Applicants, however, wish to note that, if the gate electrode of the TFT 2 of Tanaka is argued to correspond to the "*output terminal of the switching element*" of the Claims 1-12 and 20, the structure disclosed by Tanaka fails to disclose an element to correspond to a "*control terminal of the switching element*" as provided in each of claims 1-12 and 20. This is because the "*control terminal ... is electrically connected to the gate signal line*" in Claim 1, and no electrode of the TFT 2 except the gate electrode is connected to the gate signal line. Hence, Applicants contend that Tanaka fails to teach the feature "*control terminal ... is electrically connected to the gate signal line*".

According to the above argument, applicants believe that the rejection of the claims 1-12 and 20 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

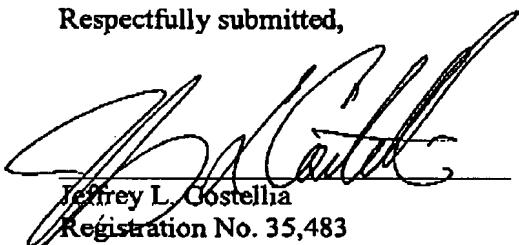
Claims 13-19 depend from claims 1-12, and, thus, include all of the limitations recited therein. For the reasons advanced above with respect to claims 1-12, these claims should likewise be considered allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-20 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia  
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128  
(202) 585-8000

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